

Jewish leader gives Israel 2 weeks to decide on peace

TEL AVIV (R) — The U.S. Jewish community, Israel's strongest backer, added its voice Sunday to a demand by Secretary of State James Baker that Israel make up its mind fast about Middle East peace moves.

But Cabinet Minister Ehud Olmert, a close associate of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said Israel should act in its own interests and not be rushed into decisions on peace.

Baker, trying to bring Israel and the Palestinians together for their first peace dialogue, told Congress last week: "We need action. We've done a lot of talking."

Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told reporters in occupied Jerusalem: "Clearly the next two weeks are very critical in this process."

"Baker has indicated that he's got a lot on his plate in terms of world issues and that he wants a response. I think he is deserving of a response shortly and I think the Israeli cabinet will have to

make a decision," he said.

The Israeli government is split over whether to accept deportees and Arabs from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem in a Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel in Cairo.

Hardliners in Shamir's rightist Likud Party say that to do so Israel would be conceding a Palestinian right of return and opening the status of Jerusalem to negotiation.

The 5.5 million U.S. Jews make up the world's largest Jewish community. Israel itself is second at 3.7 million Jews.

In a radio interview, Olmert said Israel would set its own agenda and not be rushed into a decision by outside pressure.

"We don't have to decide our position based on an assumption this is urgent to someone else and therefore we have to accelerate

our steps. We must take steps based on our own considerations, interests and timetables," Olmert said.

The dovish Labour Party in Shamir's unity government also demands action. It set a March 7 deadline to act on Egyptian and U.S. proposals for Palestinian-Israeli talks to advance Israel's May 14 plan for elections in occupied territories.

Shamir's office said the prime minister might summon his top three ministers for a crucial meeting Monday after Foreign Minister Moshe Arens briefed him on talks with Baker last week in Washington.

Arens was flying home Sunday. Army radio said Washington wanted two activists — one deportee and one who works in East Jerusalem — included in the Palestinian delegation to bridge the gap between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The radio named the two, both journalists, as Akram Haniyeh, expelled by Israel in 1986 for suspected PLO activities, and

Radwan Abu Ayyash, a pro-PLO journalist from the West Bank, with an office in East Jerusalem.

Israel occupied East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But it annexed East Jerusalem, now home to 140,000 Palestinians, and declared it part of the Jewish state.

Olmert, a minister in Shamir's rightist Likud Party who has just returned from Washington, told army radio there was "no feeling of urgency" in Europe and the United States for solutions to the Middle East conflict. The dispute had lost its prominence to other world events.

U.S. administration sources said Baker told Arens it was time Israel wholeheartedly backed its own elections proposal.

Olmert said that despite meeting U.S. officials, he had no information on the reported nominees. He said Israel would oppose "anyone whose participation would in any way signal the future of Jerusalem was negotiable."

Ferry attack cuts outside link for Lebanon enclave

NICOSIA (R) — A fatal gunboat attack on a Cypriot ferry has snapped the only direct link with the outside world for residents of Lebanon's embattled Christian enclave.

The 3,987-ton Baroness M is expected to be in dock for a month after the unidentified attacker fired on it off the coast of Lebanon early Saturday, killing one passenger and wounding 18.

And the captain of the other ferry serving the Christian port of Jounieh told Reuters Sunday he and his crew would not sail until they received assurances about their safety.

"We are afraid because we don't know what the situation is," said Demetris Vrakas, captain of the 4,000-ton Sunny Boat. "I said I won't go. It could happen to me."

Three British Royal Air Force (RAF) helicopters winched seriously injured passengers off the deck of the Baroness M after shells smashed into the ship's passenger lounge and cabins.

Larnaca hospital officials said Sunday none was in critical condition but six had undergone surgery, mainly to remove shrapnel.

More than a day after the gunboat slammed at least 16 shells into the starboard hull of the Baroness M, the identity of the boat and the motive for the attack were still unclear.

Some crewmen aboard the Baroness M said the vessel was an Osa-class Syrian gunboat and that its personnel spoke Arabic with a Syrian accent. Syria has made no comment.

But Captain George Samiotakis said he saw no name or flag on the 40-metre-long craft, armed with cannons and torpedoes, and could not confirm its identity.

Cypriot Interior Minister Christodoulos Veniamin described the attack, 30 miles off Jounieh, as appalling but said the government still did not know who was to blame.

He told Reuters that the au-

thorities had checked the ferry and found nothing on board to cause such an assault. Both the Baroness M and Sunny Boat are Cypriot-registered.

Samiotakis said the gunboat approached and shot in the air at 4.40 a.m. (0240 GMT). He turned round and headed back towards Larnaca but after he had travelled about five miles the craft came close again and opened fire on the ferry without warning.

The gunboat drew near again some time later and demanded that the ferry lower its vehicle ramp, presumably to check the cargo — five tonnes of medical supplies for Lebanon.

Samiotakis said he had no idea why he was stopped. In Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio station reported that the gunboat was Syrian and said its crew believed the ferry was carrying arms to Jounieh.

The radio is controlled by the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, locked in savage conflict since Jan. 31 with General Michel Aoun's troops inside the enclave.

Both factions bitterly oppose Syria's military presence in Lebanon.

A radio station controlled by Aoun also blamed Syria Sunday for the attack while Muslim-controlled radio and leftist papers in west Beirut accused the Israelis.

The official Syrian News Agency made no direct comment but quoted unidentified "Western press sources" in Nicosia as saying they believed Aoun was to blame.

Aoun's main naval base has been captured by the LF and a Renter correspondent saw the general's three remaining gunboats docked in the Antelias area at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Samiotakis said the Greek-owned Baroness M would be taken back to Greece for repairs, which would take about a month.

Larnaca shipping officials said they expected a decision early this week on whether the Sunny Boat would resume sailing.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Iraq postpones spying trial

LONDON (R) — The trial in Iraq of a British nurse and an Iranian-born journalist on spying charges has been postponed for two weeks, the British Foreign Office said Sunday. Daphne Parish, who worked at a Baghdad hospital, and Farzad Bazoft, on assignment for Britain's Observer newspaper when he was arrested, were to be tried by a Iraqi court Monday. A foreign office spokesman said Iraq had told Britain that the trial date had been put forward to March 8. No reason was given for the postponement. The pair were arrested while Bazoft was checking reports of an explosion at a military installation south of Baghdad for the Observer. Parish took him to the area in a hospital car. In an interview with British Television Sunday Parish's daughter said she was sure her mother was innocent. Michelle de Vries, 21, said the postponement meant the pair would have more time to prepare a strong case. Britain has called on Iraq to ensure that Parish, 52, and Bazoft, 31, receive a fair trial. Bazoft, in what Britain called "trial by television" has said on Baghdad Television he spied for Israel. If convicted the pair face life imprisonment or death.

Herzog criticises high imprisonment rate

TEL AVIV (R) — President Chaim Herzog has criticised the country's judicial and prison system, saying Israel has more prisoners per capita than Western Europe. Herzog said Israel has 150 prisoners per 100,000 residents, compared with 29 per 100,000 in the Netherlands and 114 per 100,000 in Austria, the highest in Western Europe. Herzog's figures were for 6,750 Jews and Arabs held on criminal charges and did not include some 12,000 Arabs from Israel and the occupied Arab territories held for "security offences" such as political activities. He complained about overcrowding, saying Israeli jails allotted just two square metres to each inmate, while the United States gave 16 square metres and Western Europe 10-12 square metres. The president criticised the inefficiency of the court system which has a backlog of up to four years for civil cases.

Journalist remains detained in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) A British journalist detained five days ago for unspecified "security reasons" remained in custody Sunday despite expectation he would be released this week. On Saturday, Sudanese Information Minister Ali Mohammad Shurmo said Julian Ozmame was arrested "for security reasons, but his release is imminent." A British embassy source said Ozmame would probably be set free Sunday. Ozmame, 25, of Nairobi, Kenya, was on assignment in Khartoum for the London newspaper Sunday Correspondent when he was questioned Tuesday and ordered to report the next day to security headquarters. He has been held since then. "He is still in custody. We are in regular contact with the authorities, we have seen him every day," said a British embassy source who requested anonymity. "He is in good spirits, but they say he is being held for investigation." The source said Sudanese Foreign Ministry officials believe Ozmame will be released soon, that "he is unlikely to be charged and that a report on the investigation has been made. But it would be too speculative to say the investigation is over."

Algerian infighting causes uncertainty

ALGIERS (R) — Internal crises are shaking Algerian political parties four months before the first multi-party elections since independence in 1962.

Some commentators say the rows threaten to sour the democratic process launched a year ago by a new constitution which ended 27 years of one-party politics.

"The crises in the young (opposition) groups are having a very serious effect on the democratic process..." said the weekly Revolution Africaine, linked to the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) programme launched by President Chadli Benjedid.

On Thursday hardline Socialists are expected to stage a determined challenge to the reforms at an FLN Central Committee meeting. They also want changes to a reformist-dominated politburo elected in December.

The most seriously split party is the centre-left Social Democratic Party, whose rival factions are planning separate congresses in March and may from separate headquarters.

Personalities clashes and differences over the role of Islam in politics contributed to the feud between party President Abdelrahmane Adjrid and a rebel group, which he is suing for accusing him of misusing party funds.

Adjrid attributes the crisis to the "growing pains" of democracy.

With town and provincial elections expected in June, some of the other 18 new political parties are also embroiled in infighting. The president of the tiny party of Algerian Renewal, which

favours economic liberalism and Islamic values, this month expelled two of its founding members.

The Socialist Forces Front of revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed, who returned from exile just two months ago, is fighting a challenge in the Berber-speaking Kabylia Mountains east of Algiers from a rival group of the same name.

Other major opposition parties have kept their dirty linen indoors, but press reports say the communist avant-garde Socialist Party is split between the old guard that formed it in 1966 and young faces sensitive to changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

Friday sermons at the main Algiers mosques controlled by the strongest opposition party, the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), have appealed for unity among its activists.

Political sources say the FIS is an uneasy alliance of moderates who embrace democratic change and impatient radicals who reject it.

Other fundamentalists outside the party, but grouped with it in the Islamic call league, say the time is not ripe to build an Islamic state and the movement should focus on education.

Some activists fear the disputes are undermining the confidence of an already cynical public.

"We must not lose sight of what is really important — a grouping of all democratic forces," said the Rally for Culture and Democracy Party, campaigning for greater recognition of the culture of the Berber ethnic group.

Turkey sees new potential in Iran as ties improve

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut travels to Iran Tuesday, heralding what Ankara hopes will be a fresh chapter of cooperation as relations improve.

"There is a new understanding from Iran. All of a sudden relations have been reactivated and there is a new dynamism," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar said.

Officials said all aspects of ties would be discussed in Tehran, including trade, oil and gas pipeline projects and Kurdish rebels waging an insurgency in south-eastern Turkey.

Turkish State Minister Gunes Tamer said Friday after talks in Tehran that agreement had been reached on a natural gas and oil pipeline from Iran to third countries through Turkey.

Talks on the two long-mooted links, with the oil pipeline along costing about \$4 billion, had been delayed because of Gulf war fighting and financial problems in Iran.

Relations between Turkey, a mainly Muslim but secular state, and fundamentalist Iran were strained last year when Tehran criticised a court ban on the wearing of Islamic-style headscarves at Turkish universities.

Both sides recalled their ambassadors for varying periods. But Iran's new envoy, Mohammad Reza Bagheri, made a landmark visit late last year when he visited the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the secular Turkish Republic.

"(Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani's) policy is to take a much more respectful line on the sovereignty of both countries," Sungar said.

Turkey, always cautious in relations with Iran and other neighbours such as Iraq and Syria, believes Tehran's keenness to reinvigorate ties stems in part from post-war economic problems as Iran tries to move to a market-oriented economy.

Akbulut will be accompanied by other officials as well as by businessmen seeking a slice of an industrial modernisation drive in Iran requiring cement, sugar and other plants.

Turkish industry sources said Iran was seeking foreign investment totalling \$30 billion in the next five years.

Turkey, which gained economic benefits from neutrality in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, also sees itself as ideally suited to help rebuild war-damaged Iran cities.

Following a price dispute over Iranian oil, two-way trade fell in the first 10 months of 1989 to \$615 million. This compared with a peak of \$1.4 billion in calendar 1987, a year before the Gulf war ended.

Turkey wants an Iranian crack-down on Kurdish rebels, whose five-year struggle near the Iranian, Iraqi and Syrian borders has claimed over 2,000 lives.

Official sources say the rebels have at least three camps on the Iranian side of the frontier, mainly to launch hit-and-run attacks against Turkish security forces.

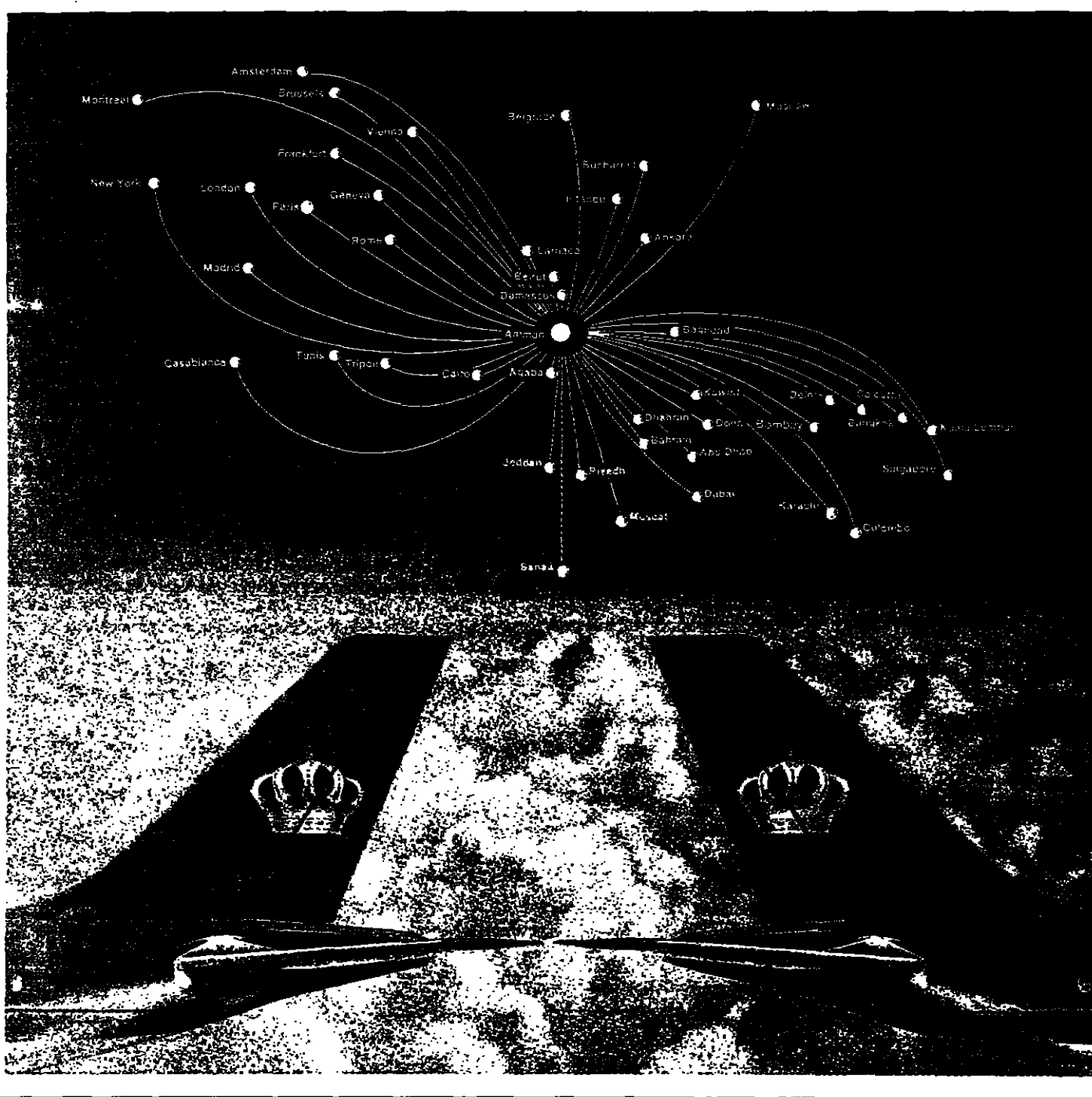
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ROYAL JORDANIAN



JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:40 Programme review

15:45 Children programmes

15:50 News summary in Arabic

15:55 World News

16:00 Local programme

16:05 Programme review

16:10 News in Arabic

16:15 Arabic series

16:20 Programme review

16:25 Local programmes

16:30 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

16:35 Arens Lapin

16:40 News in French

16:45 Weekly Sport magazine

16:50 News in Hebrew

16:55 Varieties

17:00 Empty Nest

17:05 Houston

17:10 News in English

17:15 Midnight Caller

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 Fajr

06:05 (Sunrise) Dhul

11:40 Dhuhr

15:02 'Asr

17:54 Maghrib

18:51 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Fernand Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625343

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A rise in temperatures is expected as winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 3 / 15

Aqaba 8 / 20

Deir ez-Zor 2 / 16

Jordan Valley 7 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issa Abu Haidar 637123

Dr. Akram Samhan 894611

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

Dr. Wael Khattabi 669917

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asna pharmacy 637055

Nasrallah pharmacy 626772

Al Saleh pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Smeisani pharmacy 637660

IBSD:

Dr. Abdul Karim Al Abwa (—)

Al Shama pharmacy 983238

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Latif Shabini (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 159

Rescue Police 152, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 943402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Health Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 771103

Amman Municipality 62101

Telephone Repairs 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 771111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 815615

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Russell Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Abdali Maternity, J. Amn 644411/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mahira, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4

Sinclair Hospital 669131

University Hospital 643845

Al-Munir Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/51

Al-Ahl, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Munir 771103/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775111/26

Amry, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)83323

Zarga National Hospital (09)91071

Bin Sana Hospital (09)96732

IBSD:

Princess Basmah Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Rn Al Nafces Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)311

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel: (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)

09:00 Sana (RJ)

09:15 Aqaba (RJ)

09:30 Baghdad (RJ)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)

09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

10:15 Larnaca (RJ)

10:45 Cairo (RJ)

11:15 Istanbul (RJ)

11:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

18:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:10 Sana (RJ)

10:00 Baghdad (LA)

10:00 Cairo (MS)

10:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

10:00 Kuwait (KU)

10:00 Bucharest (RO)

10:00 Kuwait (LN)

10:00 Paris (AF)

08:35 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)

11:30 Brussels, Montreal, New York (RJ)

11:45 Istanbul (RJ)

12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)

12:45 Cairo (RJ)

13:00 Damascus (RJ)

13:00 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)

13:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

14:15 Jeddah (RJ)

14:30 Cairo (RJ)

14:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 London (BA)

06:15 Beirut (ME)

06:15 Frankfurt (LH)

06:15 Paris (AF)

11:00 Baghdad (LA)

13:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

15:00 Kuwait (KU)

15:15 Bucharest (RO)

16:00 Tripoli (LN)

19:40 Baghdad (AF)

01:35 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.

Apple 480 / 440

Banana 450 / 400

Banana (Mekammar) 400 / 350

Beans 900 / 850

Cabbage 70 / 60

Carrot 200 / 150

Cauliflower 70 / 40

Corn 180 / 140

Cucumbers (large) 430 / 370

Cucumbers (small) 500 / 400

Eggplant 220 / 180

Garlic 240 / 200

Grapefruit 200 / 170

Lemon 120 / 80

Letuce (per one) 200 / 150

Marrow (large) 200 / 150

Marrow (small) 200 / 150

Onion (dry) 200 / 150

Onion (green) 220 / 180

Orange 250 / 200

Orange (Shamsani) 300 / 250

Pepper (hot) 120 / 80

Pepper (sweet) 70 / 60

Potato 150 / 120

Red Kidney 120 / 80

Sage 50 / 40

Squash 120 / 80

Tomatoes 150 / 100

Zarqa taxi drivers protest parking ban

ZARQA (Petra) — Taxi drivers in Zarqa have protested to local police against a parking ban in a plot assigned only for vehicles transporting passengers between Zarqa and other cities.

Several drivers, who said they were fined for parking in the lot, also took their complaints and grievances to Zarqa deputies in the Lower House of Parliament.

One deputy, Salameh Al Ghwein, took up the complaint with the director of police department here, Brigadier Abdullah Al Gharabeh.

According to a statement issued later, agreement was reached on allowing taxis to park once a project for asphalt paving of the area had been completed because the project provides for an area for taxi parking.

The police said that random parking of taxis at a congested area was bound to further complicate traffic problems.

Another complaint by Zarqa citizens was contained in a cable sent by a group of citizens to Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Basim Gannam saying that a committee set up to organise procedures and prepare the list of voters for municipal elections was "not qualified" to carry out its task.

Zarqa Governor Mohammad Shobaki, who is chairman of the committee entrusted with the preparations for the election, said the process of registering the eligible voters was going ahead according to a plan and without any complications.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets with the crew of the Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft participating in the Malaysian International Air Race

King meets Malaysia air race crew

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday met crews taking part in the Malaysian International Air Race 1990 and members of the international commission which organised the race and was briefed on the progress and the result of the race.

Sagor Al Urdun (Falcon of Jordan), the Royal Jordanian aircraft taking part in the race, came in third place in the eighth leg of

the race from Dubai to Amman, covering the distance in six hours and 30 minutes.

But the aircraft still retains first place in the race with a lead of two hours and 45 minutes. Sagor Al Urdun and the other craft, including three from Malaysia, will fly to Paris Tuesday on the final leg of the race.

King Hussein met with the Jordanian crew and congratulated them on their achievement.

King Hussein was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Malaysian Ambassador to Jordan.

The Malaysian race started Feb. 5, 1990 from Paris and will end there with a ceremony for the presentation of the awards.

The winner will receive a cash prize of 100,000 French francs.

Petra Bank staff return to work

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Petra Bank employees resumed work Sunday, ending a three-day sit-in after reaching a compromise with the management over their demands, marking the biggest such protest organised by any labour union or association in Jordan in the last 20 years.

The protest ended after the management committee, appointed by the government following an Economic Security Committee (ESC) order last August taking over the management, and the Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) signed an agreement late Saturday.

The agreement, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times, was signed after an intensive nine-and-a-half-hour meeting which grouped the association representing the employees — the management committee and the Ministry of Labour.

The management agreed to give employees, especially the lower-income ones, slightly higher increments than those it proposed one day before the sit-in began Tuesday. The bank's printing press employees are included in the

increment programme, although their demands for full benefits like those of the bank employees — such as medical insurance, provident fund and two-month bonus — were not discussed by the two parties.

According to one employee, the demands of the press workers will be discussed independently by the association in future negotiations with the management.

The management also agreed to take full responsibility for the losses of the employees' provident fund, which amounts to JD 700,000, with "good value date," that is, adjusting the interest income of the fund for the investment period.

In addition, the management agreed to establish a personnel structure and pay scale whereby the employees will be graded and assured of promotions within three years. The structure will be discussed with the association before it is finalised.

The employees were demanding a fair personnel structure because, according to a branch manager, "There are branch managers that have a monthly salary of JD 250, while others in the same position take JD 1,000. This is not fair."

The management also

agreed not to resort to arbitrary dismissals. However, there was no mention of reinstating the 12 who were fired under the new management although their reinstatement was a demand made during the protest. But, according to one of those who were sacked, the association has agreed to take on each case and try to reinstate them.

The employees had strongly expressed more concern with the reputation and credibility of the bank, as well as with the management's "treatment of the employees" rather than financial benefits as the central theme of their protest action. The protesters complained that the management was behind the "bad image of the bank with their slander against the employees through the media."

They also complained that the management had failed in putting the bank on its feet, and that they were "wasting too much time on unnecessary bureaucracy and forgetting about our clients and international business."

Regarding this issue, the agreement stipulates that both the management and the employees will ensure the continuity of the bank through support for the employees and

the institution, and "to improving the relationship between the management and the employees for the sake of protecting the bank."

The employees felt "triumphant" on their first day of work after the sit-in, and clients celebrated with the employees by bringing in breakfast in the morning and "knafeh," an Arabic sweet, at noon at one branch. Some clients deposited large amounts of cash "in support of the bank and its steadfast employees," as one client told the Jordan Times.

That the employees appeared to be happy over their return to work was confirmed by the general manager, Bassam Atari. He told the Jordan Times Sunday that the employees "seem to be in good spirits and happy."

"We feel we have gained the confidence of the employees by signing this agreement, which we feel was reasonable and within our boundaries," Atari said.

He added that it appeared that many clients deposited large amounts of money in the bank Sunday, but did not have any information on whether there were any losses that the bank may have incurred during the protest.

Cairo satisfied with trade links with Jordan

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

CAIRO — Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah has expressed satisfaction with the level of economic cooperation between Jordan and Egypt, and said that the two countries were taking the first steps towards implementing income-generating projects under a joint holding company.

One of these projects is designed to produce sufficient lean meat for the Jordanian and Egyptian markets, he said in an interview with the Jordan Times. The two countries are also preparing the way for joint fishery projects and a plan for joint production of seeds for farming, he added.

Makramallah said the two countries could be facing difficulties in trade exchanges, but the

problems could be settled once the causes have been identified.

Noting that both Egypt and Jordan are rescheduling debts due to foreign countries and banks, Makramallah said debt rescheduling cannot solve the two countries' economic problems. "All these agreements can only offer a breathing space, but sooner or later problems are bound to crop up again," Makramallah said. "The ideal thing is to arrange with the creditors to write off part of the debts and spread the rest over longer periods of time on easy terms," he added.

Debt of Egypt and Jordan are a heavy burden but they form a very tiny part of the creditor countries' economic potentials, Makramallah said.

Apart from cooperation between Jordan and Egypt, the two countries are taking firm and

solid steps for cooperation with Iraq and North Yemen, their partners in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), Makramallah said. He said that one should follow the example of the European Community in gradual integration towards unity. Europe took 35 years of preparations and diligent work to arrive at unity in 1992 and the Arabs should follow the European footsteps in terms of planning and preparations before jumping into similar unity, Makramallah cautioned.

As a first step, integration should be realised within the members of the three Arab economic groups — the ACC, the Arab Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — while allowing for broad level cooperation among the three groupings, Makramallah said.

The ACC, which was formed one year ago, he said, has a long way to go before being enabling itself to adopt full integration measures.

"The Arab World can face a united Europe in 1992 provided that the Arab countries unite in their attitudes, resources and common goals," Makramallah said.

He said that Arab countries import billions of dollars worth of products from Europe, conducting the transactions individually and without a great negotiating power.

The trade exchange, he said, can be conducted in bulk and at better terms and conditions and lower cost if the Arab blocs conduct trade operations as a single group. By acting as one body, Makramallah said, the Arab World can have greater weight.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King cables Canada governor-general

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a congratulatory cable to Governor-General of Canada Raymon John Hnatyshyn, congratulating him on his appointment as governor-general to succeed Madam Jeanne Sauve, whose five-year term in office ended recently. King Hussein voiced hope for continued excellent ties of friendship and cooperation and wished the governor-general continued good health and happiness and the Canadian people further progress and prosperity.

Legal Committee meets on Sharia courts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Legal Committee held a meeting Sunday, chaired by its chairman Hussein Mujalli and discussed a law on formation of Sharia courts, a revised Sharia Courts Law and a revised law of the Higher Court of Justice.

Arab information meeting opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a three-day meeting of the Arab Information Standing Committee which will be held here Monday. The committee will discuss several issues, including the Palestine question, the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to the Palestinian, Arab-Afro and Latin American cooperation in the field of information, and Arab participation in the Seville international exhibition. Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia and its permanent representative to the Arab League, Tala' Al Hassan, will represent the Kingdom at the meeting.

CSC to take part in Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) will take part in a three-day conference on administration in the Arab World, due to be held in Cairo March 5. The commission will be represented by its Secretary-General Khalid Radaideh. The conference will discuss a number of issues, including structure of administration in the Arab World and the latest international developments in the area of administration.

Human rights exhibition opens

IRBID (Petra) — Deputising for the president of Yarmouk University, the dean of student affairs opened an exhibition entitled "Martin Luther King and Human Rights." The exhibition was organised by the university's cultural and public relations department in cooperation with the American Centre.

Citibank donates JD 16,000 to NHF

AMMAN (Petra) — Citicorp Bank / Citibank has donated JD 16,000 to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to encourage the foundation's activities. The donation follows a visit by Citibank Vice-chairman Paul Collins to Jordan in late 1989.

Migration symposium urges more research cooperation

IRBID (J.T.) — A three-day symposium on migration and people's movements ended Sunday at Yarmouk University with participants recommending closer cooperation among researchers in social studies in the Middle East.

A statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting urged various countries to exchange information about emigration and forced eviction of populations. The statement also called for the establishment of a joint working team to conduct research on emigration and people's movement in the area.

The participants recommended convening a similar symposium in November 1990 with the purpose

of expanding studies in this respect.

The last session, held earlier Sunday, discussed two research papers. One was submitted by Don Shatti from Oman and dealt with means of exploiting oil and its relation to the population in Oman.

The paper dealt on Oman's economic and environmental changes that accompanied economic activities like oil exploitation and the creation of pasture lands.

The second research paper was presented by a professor at Middle East University in Ankara. The paper dealt with motives behind the emigration of people and environmental adjustment issues.

of concern to their countries and the Arab Nation at large with particular attention to Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine.

"The immigration constitutes a new threat to the Arab Nation, requiring further concerted efforts to contain its consequences," the president said. "The continued influx of Jews into Palestine entails grave danger not only for Palestine, but also for all Arab states," the president added.

President Saleh described the 11 agreements signed by the four heads of state at their summit as giving further momentum to the ACC.

Saleh said he briefed the summit on the process of unity between North and South Yemen.

In a departure statement, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt underlined the importance of solidarity among the ACC countries in the face of the common challenges.

The Israeli idea of creating an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, the president said, "is of extreme danger not only for

King voices satisfaction

(Continued from page 1)

the Arab Nation but also for Israel."

He said that Israeli leaders in general and Yitzhak Shamir in particular realise that such an idea can only complicate matters for both sides, taking the Arabs and Israel 40 or 50 years back.

Mubarak said that the ACC should work towards creating an opportune climate and to end differences among Arab countries so as to pave the way for genuine Arab unity.

One of the major issues and challenges for the Arabs, the president said, is the water problem which is on the minds of all Arabs. "We ought to exert great efforts in this concern because water is the source of life for the Arab Nation," the president said.

President Saleh later arrived in Saudi Arabia, where he briefed King Fahd on the outcome of the ACC summit in Amman, according to reports.

Riyadh Radio reported that as soon as Saleh landed at the Hafir Al Baten post in northeast Saudi Arabia, which Fahd is currently visiting, he went into a closed-door meeting with the Saudi monarch.

Engineers elect council

(Continued from page 1)

"Most of the White candidates are associated with the establishment, while some of the Green candidates are themselves unemployed engineers," said another voter. "When you think about who will take your interests closer to heart, whether an employed engineer of a government manager, it is not too hard to choose," he said.

Bashir Al Jaghbir, a civil engineer, was the only member of the "White" ticket who managed to secure a place on the executive council. He defeated his Green rival Yassin Tarawneh, with 2,138 to 1,986 votes.

The following is the list of the new executive council of the association:

Ismail Brewish (president), Fathi Hyasat (vice president), Khaled Ramadan (civil engineering), Bashir Al Jaghbir (civil engineering), Abdul Latif Al-Hadi (architectural engineering), Ghassan Abdul Majid (mechanical engineering),

Mohammad Nazzal (chemical engineering), Mazen Rial (mining engineering), and Musa Maitha (electrical engineering).

Although observers expected the number of voters to increase to 6,000 this year from the 5,000 in 1988, the total votes cast Saturday were 4,264.

Observers said that the unemployment of young engineers may have added to the decrease in registered voters. To be eligible to vote, engineers have to pay a yearly fee of JD 30. Although the number of engineers in the country is estimated at 22,000, only 9,361 were eligible to vote this year.

The association, like most other professional unions and organisations, has served as a prominent forum for airing political views and thoughts in the absence of political parties in the Kingdom.

Association officials say that they expect the role of the professional unions to take on a slightly different character in the age of democracy.



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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of paintings by Aida Ammoura, Nabila Elham and Nawal Abdallah at Abdul Haseed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- An exhibition entitled "Models of the Jordanian plastic art" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- A photographic exhibition on the Soviet armed forces at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of posters entitled "The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr." at Yarmouk University.

THEATRE

- A play entitled "Bottom of the Garden" (by the famous movie artist Nola Bay) at the Yarmouk University — 4:00 p.m.

FILMS

- A French film entitled "Un Fil" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- Soviet documentaries at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

MARKET

- Upper lower price:
- Apple
 - Banana
 - Beans
 - Cabbage
 - Cauliflower
 - Corn
 - Cucumber (large)
 - Cucumber (small)
 - Dates
 - Eggplant
 - Garlic
 - Grapefruit
 - Lemon
 - Lettuce (red)
 - Marrow (large)
 - Marrow (small)
 - Onion (dry)
 - Onion (green)
 - Orange (Shamoun)
 - Orange (other)
 - Pepper (hot)
 - Pepper (sweet)
 - Potato
 - Raspberries
 - Sage
 - Spinach
 - Tomatoes

Jordan Times

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Let actions be the key

THE POLITICAL communiqué issued at the end of the Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC) summit in Amman Saturday made references to practically all pressing and urgent conflicts facing the entire Arab World. The communiqué called, inter alia, for stopping the influx of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and other occupied territories because that constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and human rights and poses an open aggression against the Palestinian people and the entire Arab Order. In this vein, the Arab leaders seem to suggest that there is a distinction that can be made between Jewish immigration to Israel per se and such immigration to the occupied territories. This distinction is in fact untenable and fallacious. All Arabs know only too well that immigration to Israel per se would have a spin-off effect on the occupied territories in the final analysis. There is no practical way to prevent Jewish immigrants to Israel from ending up in the occupied territories or causing other Israelis from transferring themselves to these territories under the pressure of new arrivals. And this is not the only deficiency in the ACC summit's treatment of the Soviet Jewish influx to Palestine. It is one thing to demand an end to such immigration and quite another to deploy effective measures and policies to realise such an objective. Jewish immigration to Israel or to the occupied territories is not going to end simply because the Arab World has asked for it. Jewish immigration may end only when potent and effective policies are adopted by the Arab countries against it. The summit's communiqué was silent on what real actions the ACC countries have in mind to achieve the desired objective. And what applies to Soviet Jewish immigration also applies to the other vital issues and conflicts addressed by the ACC summit.

For example, the Palestinian people under occupation will be most happy to have earned the praise of the summit in their heroic struggle against Israeli occupation and oppression. Yet the ongoing intifada expects more than an expression of pride and praise in order for it to continue and develop. Perhaps the pronouncement of support for the Palestinians implies tangible and meaningful aid as well. Otherwise the expression of full support for the Palestinian's legitimate rights to self-determination and independent statehood on their national soil would simply be incomplete. Nor are the references to the Iraq-Iran conflict and the Lebanese situation sufficient without adding guidelines on how the ACC member countries intend to pursue the goals of ending these crises in effective ways. Surely the Arab peoples concerned are yearning not only for pious resolutions on these issues but also for meaningful ways and means to address them.

Perhaps, the ACC summit cannot and could not go beyond the decisions that it has adopted. Even more probable is the proposition that the Arab leaders had in mind a series of effective policies when they addressed the varied conflicts confronting the Arab countries. It is not only natural but also logical that the ACC summit would not want to reveal all its inner thoughts and confidential decisions for that would be self-defeating and counter-productive. The future is the better judge of this. That is why on the surface of things the Arab peoples concerned would attach more importance to the series of agreements approved and signed by the four members of the ACC. The biggest comfort to the peoples of the ACC countries is to know that real and effective measures are being taken to consolidate and strengthen the ACC and the 11 cooperation agreements signed at the Amman summit would indeed go a long way to fortify that conviction.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN dailies on Sunday hailed the positive and fruitful outcome of the ACC summit in Amman and gave prominence to the speeches of the four Arab leaders at the opening and final sessions.

Al Ra'i daily dwelt in particular on King Hussein's address in which he pinpointed the weaknesses in the Arab stand and underlined the need for collective action in the face of Zionist moves in the occupied territories. King Hussein also referred to the ongoing propaganda campaign being waged by Israel against Jordan and the continued influx of Jews into Palestine where they are settled on Arab land. The paper said only serious efforts and unity among the Arab countries can put a stop to Israel's practices and defiance of the Arab Nation. The paper referred also to the situation in the Gulf where, it said, there is urgent need to end the no-war-no-peace situation and praised President Saddam Hussein for his open call on Iran to respond favourably to the calls and the urgent need of peace. King Hussein, said the paper, has appealed to the Arab World to stand together and to deal with world developments at all levels and to meet the challenge posed on the Arabs by Israel and its inhuman practices in the Palestinian land.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the Jordan Electricity Company for charging subscribers in advance for their power consumption. Salah Abdul Samad says the company has been sending out its teams to conduct a mere assessment of each subscriber's consumption basing its estimates on such assessment alone without real reading of the metres. This practice is illegal and violates article 12 of the Jordanian Constitution, the writer notes. He says that imposing charges on people in advance is an illegal action and tantamount to confiscating people's assets with no crime committed. The writer says that it seems that the company is in need of funds and has resorted to this practice to get loans from the subscribers. But, he says, such loans should not be granted if the creditor is not convinced, at a time when subscribers, are facing economic hardships in Jordan.

Al Dastour daily said that the ACC has accomplished further achievements which can only lead towards integration. The four ACC leaders who signed agreements bringing their countries one more step closer to unity, have underlined in their speeches the importance of unity among Arab states, not only to deal with the economic situation but also to fend off danger represented in the presence of hostile forces on the eastern and western flanks of the Arab World. The paper highlighted King Hussein's major address in which he described the ACC as the nucleus for building the aspired Arab unity. It also highlighted the speeches of the three other leaders who echoed King Hussein's views concerning the Jewish immigration issue, Lebanon, the Gulf and the economic situation in the Arab World. The ACC summit, the paper said, was a precious opportunity for the four leaders to embark on further steps towards unity.

By Waleed Sadi

ACC has yet to deliver

IN THE wake of the first anniversary of the Arab Cooperation Council many Arab enthusiasts are posing questions about the speed with which the goals and aspirations of the Council are being translated into actions. Also on the occasion of the just concluded ACC summit Arab eyes are focused on the direction of the ACC. Most of all the Arab peoples of the four Arab states that make up the ACC are concerned lest this new embryonic grouping of Arab states end up where the Arab League has ended: a talking machine. With the kind of high expectations that were generated by the creation of the ACC a year ago, the Arab peoples of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen are impatiently waiting for their respective governments to deliver tangibly and concretely on their promises to transform this new Arab formation into a truly meaningful and effective nucleus for a broader Arab unification scheme.

Thus far, the steps taken to materialise these high expectations have been too slow and too little for the liking of the Arab peoples affected most by the ACC. No approaching spectacular actions have been taken so far and no great leaps forward are being projected. On the contrary there is a growing apprehension that the methodology of the ACC is reminiscent of that long pursued by the dying Arab League. At best, the ongoing measures undertaken by the concerned Arab governments resemble the traditional and orthodox Arab ways of developing bilateral relations. Much more is expected of the four ACC countries and much more has to be done to avoid the kind of cynicism that is usually generated everytime Arab governments talk about Arab unity. Uppermost on the minds of all Arabs who turned euphoric about the prospects of the ACC is to avoid at all cost the dinosaurian ways of the Arab League system which after so many decades has become obsolete and irrelevant for all intents and purposes.

The negative signals and indicators that all is not well and sound with the steps undertaken already towards unifying the four Arab states are indeed plentiful. For starters, the tariff barriers between them are anything but dismantled. Freedom of travel between the four has still a long way to go before reaching the level that could suggest that the four countries are fast approaching the desired stage of unity and integration. Human contacts between the peoples of the four Arab states on most relevant levels is anything but growing or consolidating. No major steps have been adopted to unify or even coordinate the economies of the four states. Currency unification is not even contemplated much less considered. As for their policies, whether domestic or external, there are only faint whispers about putting the four countries on the same wave length. For example at a time when Egypt condemned the recent attack on the Israeli tourists, none of the other members made similar pronouncements. Moreover, there is no talk whatsoever about unifying or even coordinating the defences of the member states of the ACC. To put it more bluntly there is hardly any flesh on the skeleton of the ACC and not much of that is projected to occur as far as one can see.

Perhaps there is more than meets the eye and what goes on behind the scenes would paint a brighter picture than the one I have portrayed. Maybe there are a series of breakthroughs that have yet to be announced. There is nothing more that would please the minds and hearts of Jordanians, Iraqis, Egyptians and Yemenis than to prove their preliminary assessments wrong. As a layman, I for one, would never rest till I see and feel solid proof that the ACC is indeed a healthy Arab structure moving forward on solid grounds every step of the way. I yearn for the moment

when our Egyptians, Iraqis, Jordanians and Yemenis are treated equally in every Arab country that makes up the ACC. I also yearn for the moment when borders between the four countries are torn down and freedom of travel between them becomes as fast and unobstructed as that that exists within the European Community countries for example. After all that is exactly what our governments had promised our peoples when they thought of the ACC in the first place. And until human contacts between the peoples of the four Arab states have been elevated to a level that befits all the rosy talk about the ACC, the entire exercise will remain a suspect in my mind and like-minded people across the four Arab countries.

I certainly envy the German people for the speed and seriousness with which they pursue their unification plans. It could not have escaped the minds of Arab peoples everywhere that the German people in East and West Germany have moved with great speed and courage to reunite themselves against formidable odds in a matter of weeks at a time when the Arab World has been talking about unifying for over six decades with no result in sight. Of course I am equally envious of the ECC countries for the serious and meaningful way with which they have waged their unity in a matter of short years and against giant obstacles. And of course I am most depressed to see every Arab attempt to unify the Arab peoples end up derailed by an open ended marathon of rhetoric. That is why I cannot be satisfied with the pace of ongoing ACC steps. There is no hope for the Arab World in the face of the new and growing challenges and dangers that have erupted everywhere in the wake of the dismantlement of the Communist citadels across East Europe and the Soviet Union, except through forging genuine unity schemes instead of building sand castles everywhere.

ANC exiles prepare to go home

By Angus Shaw
The Associated Press

LUSAKA, Zambia — For thousands of African National Congress activists, the long, hard years of political exile are all but over. They are going home, probably before year-end.

Most exiles at the ANC's external headquarters are expected to return well before a national conference scheduled for Dec. 16, the organisation's first full-scale meeting inside South Africa since it was outlawed there in 1960.

"I can't wait to smell the coal smoke of Soweto," said Chris, an ANC mechanic in Lusaka who refused to give his full name.

The 28-year-old black South African grew up near Johannesburg in the sprawling Soweto township where the dawn horizon is laden with smoke from tens of thousands of coal fires.

He said he headed a militant youth group before he fled to Zambia to escape arrest by South African police for alleged sabotage in 1979. He did guerrilla training in neighbouring Tanzania before being attached to the motor pool in Zambia to work variously as a mechanic, driver and bodyguard to top ANC officials.

Chris is one of many ANC fugitives — estimates run as high as 3,000 — who came to Zambia, one of Africa's poorest nations, and made their homes in run-down brick shacks in Lusaka's unkempt, decaying suburbs.

As part of a sweeping reform programme, South African President F.W. de Klerk on Feb. 2 lifted a 30-year ban on the ANC. On Feb. 10, he freed its leader, Nelson Mandela, who had served 27 years of a life sentence for plotting the violent overthrow of the white-controlled government.

The reforms cleared the way for the external wings of the ANC, long the target of bomb attacks and retribution, to return home and reorganise itself openly as a political force inside South Africa.

"Everyone is extremely excited about going home," said ANC information chief Palo Jordan. "We have lived with all sorts of threats for such a long time it would be pointless to worry about our safety now."

The exiles will be leaving behind the peeling-paint walls of a handful of small offices located on a garbage-strewn alley behind a used car lot and second-hand furniture store in downtown Lusaka.

The dingy headquarters is a far cry from the slick corridors of power in South Africa, the continent's richest nation.

A lone telex machine functions sporadically, and one of the two telephones at ANC headquarters recently was dead for more than six weeks, adding to persistent criticism of chronic inefficiency and general malaise that is ascribed to the would-be government-in-waiting.

The ANC says it first set up in Zambia in the early 1970s to tap its courier networks from South Africa through Botswana and Mozambique.

As the number of exiles grew — and many were in transit for military training in Angola, Tanzania and the Soviet Union — so did the threat of attacks and

infiltration by South African agents.

The organisation, explains spokesman Tom Sebina, spread its living quarters around the Zambian capital so as not to concentrate its people in large groups. He believes this may have been why there were injuries but no deaths in a score of bombings over the past decade.

Ranking political officials and guerrilla leaders were split up and assigned separate safe houses in a city where just one third of dwellings are connected to water-borne sewer systems. Few of the 35 members of the national executive committee have home telephones.

Exiled South Africans opened a clinic and nursery for their families, and the ANC acquired a 3,000-acre farm.

Chongela farm, near the Chongela River, aimed to but did not always succeed in making the ANC self-sufficient in corn, eggs, vegetables, meat and poultry.

When there were times of surplus, an Angolan government cargo plane collected the corn once every two weeks for distribution at ANC camps in northern Angola, Sebina says.

Sebina, 52, who knew Mandela before his imprisonment, last saw his own family and the township of his childhood in 1965.

"I have been away so long I've forgotten what I miss," he said. "When you leave, you are separated from everything you love and enjoy. That is the hard part."

First in Seogel and then Lusaka, Sebina and fellow South Africans found it difficult to adjust to other African cultures. In Zambia he laments the pervasiveness of "bubblegum pop music" and Japanese karate movies — as well as the fact that uncleared garbage and broken drains have left more than 70 Zambian city dwellers dead from cholera so far this year.

Like all full-time ANC officials, Sebina receives a food ration and free medical care but no salary. Instead, as a middle-level official, he gets a monthly spending allowance of about 900 Zambian kwacha (\$35) and lives frugally in a cramped two-room township-style brick house.

The ANC's international affairs chief, Thabo Mbeki, has a rented suburban home paid for mainly by his wife Zanele, a staffer at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, while Chris Hani, the urbane military chief of staff who holds an arts degree, shares a bungalow with two bodyguards. When militant Steve Tshwete is not roaming foreign capitals garnering support, his driver doubles as a general assistant.

As ANC leaders began preparing in February for their first preliminary talks with the Pretoria government to clear obstacles to full-scale negotiations, a new conciliatory mood also emerged at Radio Freedom, the organisation's Lusaka-based station.

Most of the hostile rhetoric has gone, says announcer Sipho Malata, but one signature tune, a revolutionary song calling the masses to arms and punctuated by automatic gunfire, is still beamed daily into South Africa from Zambian government transmitters.

Dubcek has no regrets about not fighting invasion

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

LONDON — Alexander Dubcek, the Czechoslovak leader whose experiment in "Socialism with a human face" was crushed by Warsaw Pact forces in 1968, says the decision not to resist the invasion prevented a bloodbath.

Dubcek also said he believed his colleagues had given him sedatives in an attempt to curb his temper during a showdown with former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

"I know that new film shot at the time showed the people angry and ready for any sacrifice. Perhaps our army also would have been willing to stand up and fight. But I think that the decision we made at the time was correct," Dubcek said in an interview broadcast Monday night on independent television.

"If we had resisted, which is certainly what the Soviets expected, we would have drowned in blood," Dubcek said.

Granada Television, which produced the interview for its "World in Action" programme, called it as Dubcek's first extended interview with Western journalists in 20 years.

The interview was conducted

earlier this month by the producers of "Invasion," Granada's 1980 dramatization of the Warsaw Pact invasion in August 1968 and the confrontation in Moscow the following October between Dubcek and Brezhnev.

The producers gave Dubcek a videotape of the programme, and the interview shows him reacting to various scenes. Comments by Dubcek, now chairman of the national assembly, were translated into English and dubbed into the programme.

Arrested after the invasion and taken to Moscow, Dubcek said he had decided he would not cooperate in any negotiations intended to produce a written agreement with the Soviets.

Dubcek, then first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, said he told Prime Minister Oldrich Cernik he had resigned. His colleagues refused to accept his resignation.

Dubcek said the Czech delegation won three concessions from the Soviets: No justification for the invasion, no agreement to cancel Czechoslovakian reforms, and no acceptance of the right of any other Communist country to negotiate Czechoslovakia's future.

The talks produced harsh mo-

ments, he said.

"When my colleagues read out the draft to me before the signing ceremony, I told them: 'Look, you know me. You know my temperament. I cannot guarantee that once I sit down and face them across a table I'll just sign it. I could ruin everything. I may not be able to control myself. That's the danger.'"

"They kept saying, 'calm down, calm down.' I know now they had been giving me sedatives — not injections, but tablets, vitamins and other sedatives that would make me amenable and keep me happy," Dubcek said.

He denied that he was given any injections, as the "Invasion" film claimed.

"I don't know how many tablets I had," Dubcek said. "In this kind of situation you can take any number without effect. I know I look a pretty quiet man — smiling, peaceful, looking more peaceful than I feel."

"Anyway, the tablets simply didn't work."

The film showed Dubcek losing his temper, telling Brezhnev that negotiations were a waste of time and that Soviet leaders were blind to their own faults.

"They goose-stepped out, just like that (in the film) and left us,"

Dubcek said.

"By standing up against them and adopting a position which I knew they couldn't possibly accept, I set out to create an atmosphere which would force them to break off, which is what happened, as the film shows, they left the hall, the document was unsigned, and a total split opened up," he said.

But Dubcek said the Czechoslovaks had to compromise "to avoid bloodshed at home and to make sure that all the members of our delegation returned to Prague safely."

On Oct. 16, Dubcek and all but one of his colleagues signed a treaty accepting the temporary stationing of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia.

"I'm sure the compromise was necessary," Dubcek said. "It arose from a situation where we tried to salvage all that could be salvaged, and that was my prime motive in finally adding my signature."

"Even after I had disrupted the meeting, at that moment I simply felt a greater weight of responsibility on me than on anyone else, because of the consequences. This is why I did what I did, and I let history judge me."

East German Social Democrats rise to threshold of power

By Mark Heinrich
Reuters

LEIPZIG, East Germany — East Germany's Social Democrats have risen from a shadowy resistance movement to the threshold of power in a country gripped by 40 years of Communist dogma.

Since the November revolution that swept away the Communist old guard, the SPD party has eclipsed other reform groups — its former allies against Stalinist tyranny.

It did so by promoting a Western formula for political success — the regulated free market economy — while other reform groups clung to an untried "third way" between Communism and capitalism.

Ibrahim Boehme, SPD's newly elected candidate for prime minister in free elections due on March 18, has struck the pose and coined the prose of a Western campaign veteran.

Clasping his hands above his head in a victory salute before 500 cheering congress delegates on Friday night, Boehme beamed and said: "Thank you for your trust. We are first a democratic party and then a Social Democratic one."

"I am convinced we will be the strongest party in East Germany on March 18. We will be a credible player in democratic competition because we never claimed a monopoly on truth."

A handful of obscure dissidents including Boehme revived the SPD in October, 43 years after its forcible postwar absorption by the Soviet-backed Communists.

The SPD has since soared to a commanding 50 per cent plus standing in pre-election polls with a centrist platform meant to reassure millions of people who fear

upheaval as East and West Germany move towards unification. It has won praise from Social Democratic groups throughout Europe and attracted speakers from West Germany to campaign on its behalf.

Electoral rivals have faded — either out of reluctance to drop idealistic Socialist goals or because they had appealed the Stalinist order.

The SPD's founding covenant, which was to be ratified by the congress which was ending on Sunday, calls for a market economy with strong social benefits to counter capitalist excess.

This is a virtual carbon copy of the formula responsible for West Germany's affluence and one which most East Germans would like to emulate.

The platform also commits the SPD to German unification, desired by 75 per cent of East Germans, and demilitarisation of the two Germany's for which majorities in both states yearn.

As a sign of his intention to build consensus, Boehme has spoken in favour of reconciliation with the Communists, saying nobody should have his past automatically held against him.

Boehme was a card-carrying Communist for nine years until 1976 when he walked out in outrage at human rights abuses.

The SPD's closest rivals in opinion polls are the Christian Democrats (CDU) with about 13 per cent support from voters. Despite backing from Bonn's governing party of the same name, the CDU has suffered from its tarnished past as a satellite of the Communists.

"They were neither Christian nor democratic before November," poll campaign foes like to say.

LETTERS

Salvation

To the Editor:

History's international arsonist, Hulagu, burnt our resourceful Baghdad library. Euclid, the larcenist, transported our intelligence to his country and dwelled on it. Richard the Lion-Heart, injected our soul with segregation. The Turks, provided us with the essence of backgammon and procrastination. Sykes dissected us and Picot arrogated our resources. Balfour presented our land to others. And Zion, benefitted from all the latter atrocities. What did we do about it? Simply, contributed with our arrogant ignorance and severe apathy to further deterioration. Reaching the lowest law of the abyss, we sit idle contemplating the carnage in Lebanon, and salute the martyrs in the occupied lands.

Friends, at some point in history, our forefathers, enjoyed a unique supremacy, which emanated from their sheer unity. Their vast knowledge ranged from mathematics to medicine, which incidentally enabled them to treat the plague when Europe was suffering from its tragic toll. Our forefathers stood united in the face of all challenges and left us a priceless legacy. Yet, separated, we have gone astray.

Our salvation is emerging from within the inner sinews devoted of one man, a descendant of the Great Arab Revolt. One who has devoted his entire life to the Arab cause, continuously, seeking justice and unity. Travelling between brethren attempting solidarity, roaming the world for recognition, reaching the remote, he is so close to us, yet we fail to acknowledge and support him fully. It is time to adopt his path before it is too late. We must revive the unity that will undoubtedly propel us into the prosperous future, nurtured and guided by the man who will make all the difference.

Ali Malhas
Amman

Why war?

To the Editor:

Reading the newspaper can bring mixed feelings of joy and sorrow, with different events around the world. But after reading the Feb. 14's Jordan Times (supposed to be Valentine's Day, with love flowing around for the dear ones) one's heart would cry loud, to see how mothers are maimed by the loss of their beloved, in east Beirut war, and how a brother (fighting for Aoun) finds the corpse of his blood-brother (fighting for Samir Geagea) and how he breaks into tears. I wouldn't call myself completely ignorant in right to call this an inhuman, unwanted and unasked for war. It does not matter where the problem lies, or who is wrong or right; why a war? Natural tragedies are enough, to add to them deal with a problem other than war.

I sincerely hope those concerned would realise this before it is too late.

Dr. Barbara Buzaid
Amman

97-1 on 1/20

Goddess theory creates storm

By Peter Steinhilber

MARIJA GIMBUTAS is an eminent archaeologist who says she believes the world once lived in peace. It was during the Stone Age, she says, when goddesses were worshipped and societies were centered on women.

Then, about 6,000 years ago, this Old European culture, in which the two sexes lived in harmony with one another and with nature, was shattered by patriarchal invaders who installed their warlike gods in place of the life-generating Great Goddess.

It is a thesis that has made the 68-year-old professor of archaeology at the University of California at Los Angeles a heroine among many feminist social critics and religious thinkers and a controversial figure, to say the least, among her colleagues.

References to her theories are sprinkled liberally throughout a growing literature about goddess-based religion. For some time feminist writers have been seeking non-patriarchal mythologies and rituals in Jungian psychology, reconstructed notions of witchcraft, or even in pure creations of the imagination. But Dr. Gimbutas gives them something more: the seeming stamp of science and the reassurance of history.

Her work was a major scholarly source for Riane Eisler's "The Chalice and the Blade," a sweeping analysis of cultural evolution that has become a minor classic in the women's movement. In "The Once and Future Goddess," a new book on Goddess symbols and images, Elinor W. Gadon calls Dr. Gimbutas's research "groundbreaking and fundamentally important."

"Marija Gimbutas is the one world-famous scholar showing that what feminists wished was true is in fact true," said John London, a senior editor at Harper & Row who worked on the archaeologist's book published last year, "The Language of the Goddess."

Dr. Gimbutas is indeed a prolific scholar, the author of 20 books, including a monumental study of Bronze Age Indo-European cultures, and more than 200 articles. She has directed five excavations in Europe, reads more than 20 languages and brings to her work an extraordinary knowledge of European folklore and mythology.

But the skepticism about this thesis by many leading archaeologists and anthropologists is unmistakable, although it almost always comes with expressions of respect for Dr. Gimbutas's other contributions. Yet the growing acceptance of her theories among nonexperts has led some of these scholars to feel that they should make their own criticism more widely known.

Dr. Gimbutas argues that between 7000 B.C. and 3500 B.C. the people of Europe lived in sedentary agricultural societies that worshipped the Great Goddess, delighted in nature, shunned war, built comfortable settlements rather than forts and crafted superb ceramics rather than weapons. The social system was matrilineal. Women headed clans or served as queen-priestesses. Men labored as hunters and builders. But neither men nor women dominated the other sex.

Death was not absent from this world. Deathwielding Goddesses are found among the female deities that predominated in this period but their worship, Dr. Gimbutas theorizes, was always closely linked to themes of life and regeneration.

Between roughly 4000 B.C. and 3500 B.C. this peaceful and harmonious "Old Europe" was shattered by waves of Indo-European invaders on horseback, the theory holds. These marauders from the Russian steppes transformed Europe. Their warrior gods dethroned the nurturing Great Goddess. Her various manifestations were incorporated into the male-dominated pantheons as wives, daughters or consorts, sometimes eroticized like Aphrodite or militarized like Athena. Patriarchy and hierarchy replaced sexual and social egalitarianism.

The Goddess religion and its symbols went underground, putting on the masks of subordinate but still powerful female Greek and Roman deities, of the Virgin Mary, of mysterious figures in folklore and fairy tales. But a substratum of Old Europe survived in harvest customs and peasant beliefs about springs, rocks, trees and animals, in medieval magic and the practices that Christian authorities persecuted as witchcraft.

The secret stream is essential to decoding much of Western culture, Dr. Gimbutas maintains, but it is also a source of ancient wisdom that modern civilization must tap to counter its own alienation from nature.

It is a dramatic story of paradise lost and now rediscovered. Originally set forth in a 1974 book, "The Goddesses and Gods of Old Europe," it inspired, besides feminist thinkers, a number of women artists who were captivated by the remarkable images

of ancient female figurines in Dr. Gimbutas's book and later publications.

But many other investigators of prehistoric Europe have not shared the enthusiasm. Bernard Wailes, a professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, says most of Dr. Gimbutas's peers consider her "immensely knowledgeable but not very good in critical analysis."

Ruth Tringham is a professor of anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley who is an authority on the same time and geographical area of prehistoric Europe as Dr. Gimbutas. Choosing pages at random from "The Language of the Goddess," she repeatedly voiced dismay over assertions that demanded, she said, serious qualifications.

"No other archaeologist I know would express this certainty," Dr. Tringham said.

David Anthony, an assistant professor of anthropology at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, whose areas of research also coincide closely with Dr. Gimbutas's, said that, contrary to her claims, the cultures of Old Europe built fortified sites that indicate the presence of warfare.

— New York Times



Dr. Marija Gimbutas says that the opposed whorls on ancient vase designs signifies the role of goddesses in the cycle of time and life in neolithic Europe.

Focus on People

Upstairs, downstairs

By Mariam M. Shalhin

MANY young men and women leave their home countries to work "abroad," in the "lands of milk and honey," but only a few of them ever feel at home in host countries and only end as mere "guestworkers." While some are often able to "set up house" and plan for a future for themselves and their families, the fact remains: a guestworker is forever a guest. Even more he or she is a working guest, in many instances a serving guest. To what degree social and economic and political circumstances add to the often unfortunate circumstances of guestworkers could be discussed at great length, but what concerns us here is an almost feudal social attitude that prevails in the relationship between the served and the server.

Whether in Western Europe, the Middle East or any other part of the world, foreign workers are normally hired to do the jobs that locals, for one reason or another, do not want to do. He or she is forever an outsider. An unknown. "The rest" only see him or her as "the maid," "the gardener," "the construction worker," or the "doorman." He or she never "belongs" in any sense.

This week an "unknown" speaks. She is a 30-year-old Filipina who has been living in Jordan for the past nine years. She has had three Jordanian employers. During her nine-year stay she has never had a Jordanian "friend." This week Rosa speaks about life in Jordan through the eyes of an outsider who was never "allowed in."

During the nine years that Rosa has lived in Jordan she travelled back home to the Philippines on five occasions, earned the equivalent of JD 150 a month and had an average of 8 hours a week off, on Sundays.

She says that compared to many other foreign workers and a lot of poorer Jordanians she is "well off." She sleeps in a warm room, eats good food and gets fancy hand-me-downs every once in a while from her "madam." What is different therefore about Rosa is not her economic status but rather her social status.

At 29 Rosa is not married, she has no time for a boy friend and if she stays in Jordan for a few more years she feels she is not likely going to have either.

"It is very difficult for me because I rarely leave the house. I talk to my other relatives that live in Amman on the phone almost every day, but I don't see them," Rosa says. "The family I now have been working for for the last five years are very good to me. They have even said they want to find a husband for me so that I will stay with them. But that is very difficult. I am planning to go back to the Philippines soon and then we will see what happens."

Rosa's day begins at 6:00 a.m. and ends 21:00 p.m. on the

average, but when her employers are having a party or dinner the day becomes longer. She lives in a makeshift 2 by 3 metre room next to her employers house.

The things that keep Rosa busy during the day are almost too numerous to be counted. "Every morning I wake up at six, start preparing breakfast, then I wake up the children, I help the small ones dress after they wash."

"So they have breakfast, then madam and sir wake up, they start coming to breakfast when the kids are almost ready to go to school by bus. While they have breakfast I air the rooms and start making the beds. After sir leaves, I do their bedroom and the bathrooms. Then I start cooking, sometimes madam helps and sometimes she doesn't. It depends on her schedule. After cooking, I look after the garden. This takes half an hour. Then I go back in to do some housework, dusting or vacuuming, ironing, cleaning windows, you know," Rosa says without the slightest trace of mock in her voice.

So this is Rosa's morning, the afternoon must be pretty much the same. But how does Rosa feel about her job? "Well, I don't mind really because it is my job and 'my family' is very good with me. They don't treat me like some of their friends treat their house helpers. But I'd like to have a family of my own and teach my own kids how to do things. I love the kids here, but I feel like I am living for them. They like me a lot and we always do housework together." Rosa has a B.A. in English literature.

Her two previous employers were also nice people, but she says they overworked her and she hints at having been harassed as a single woman as well. She did not want to dwell on that. "Now I am with nice people and that is all that matters," she says.

Rosa admits that while no Jordanian has ever approached her to make friends, she never bothered to make an approach either. The little time that she has for herself she spends with her "family" members and other people from the local Philippine community.

"There is no time for all this friendship business, and I don't think we have a lot in common either," Rosa says.

The last time she went to get her work permit renewed she had to pay the boys and the counter some money under the table so they would not make her come ten times. She says, "laughing," poor guys, they never thought that they would take money from a maid, but I probably make more money than they do. I am glad I am going back home soon because the economy here is getting worse."

Rosa will leave Jordan at the end of 1990. She has never visited Petra, Jerash or even Aqaba. "No I haven't visited those places, they are for the tourists not the workers," she laughs.

On the trail of a rinderpest vaccine

By Talib Esmail

TILAHUN Daniels Yilma, born on his family's coffee farm in southern Ethiopia, and now Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology at the University of California, USA, believes he has genetically engineered a virus to make a vaccine that will halt the animal disease, rinderpest, which kills two million cattle a year worldwide and has even begun to affect sheep and goats in India.

In the 1960s and 1970s, an attempt was made to eliminate rinderpest from Africa with an early vaccine. But the campaign failed, and the disease returned for several reasons: it turned out not to be confined to herded cattle, but was also prevalent among animals in the wild, making it impossible to vaccinate the whole population; re-infection occurred through movement of nomadic herds, and through the disruptions of wars; and, significantly, since the vaccine required freezing and had to be imported, it was difficult to deliver.

Yilma's vaccine can overcome this last hurdle. It does not need freezing, and can even be made locally. The vaccine, developed with \$870,000 funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), is based on the vaccinia virus which was used to eliminate smallpox in humans. Yilma has engineered this virus to make parts of the rinderpest virus and therefore stimulate a bull, cow or buffalo's immune system to generate resistance to rinderpest itself.

More of the vaccine can be made locally by "scarifying" or scratching a cow with a sample of the engineered vaccinia, and letting the vaccinia grow in the scratch — which it does without harming the cow. Upwards of 100,000 doses of the vaccine are produced by liquefying the resulting scab.

Although there is no doubt that the vaccine creates immunity, further field trials are necessary to determine how long that immunity lasts.

However, there was controversy about the wisdom of re-releasing vaccinia into the environment, now that smallpox has been eradicated and human immunity to the pox viruses is weak. It could risk once again infecting the human population with smallpox.

At a meeting held last July, the World Health Organisation (WHO) discussed the issue and recommended that Yilma redevelop the vaccine using a safer strain.

This has proved successful and his new "Weitz" strain vaccine is awaiting clearance from the Animal Plant Health Inspectorate Service (APHIS) in the US. Once cleared, he can embark on the next and all-important step to determine its effectiveness by conducting field trials in a host country.

Rinderpest — the name comes from the German word for cattle plague — is an ancient disease which used to infect cattle in Europe but is now largely prevalent in Asia, the Middle and Africa.

At present there are severe outbreaks of rinderpest in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria and in the Middle East.

Eradication of the virus is of major economic importance to many countries. Somalia, for example, earns 90 per cent of its foreign exchange through the sale of livestock products. During a rinderpest outbreak, however, these products are embargoed. And with the most virulent strains of rinderpest — of which the Sudanese strain is one — the animal can die within 10-12 days.

Even more worrying, however, is the discovery in the last decade that the virus is transmissible between species — and that it is now affecting sheep and goats in India. This has major implications for the control of rinderpest, because the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that there are more than 100 million sheep and goats in India alone.

Modern transportation and the export of live cattle between countries has also resulted in the disease being introduced into areas not previously affected (for example, Turkey was free of the disease from 1932 but was re-infected in 1970). In addition, many African countries have difficulties, both economic and political, in maintaining quarantines, monitoring herds and vaccinating young calves.

Such logistical problems and the war between Ethiopia and Somalia over the Ogaden region, stymied previous, intensive vaccination efforts to eradicate rinderpest. Natural and nomadic reservoirs of the virus require vaccines to be supplied continuously to vaccinate young animals.

The largest effort yet to eliminate rinderpest was the joint Programme 15 (JP15) from 1962-76, which attempted the mass vaccination of all cattle in 22 countries from Central to West, East and North-East Africa — covering a total of about 80 million cattle.

The "Flowright tissue culture vaccine" used in the programme was enormously successful in the early days and achieved significant reductions in the incidence of rinderpest. But by 1982, over one million cattle were once again infected. The same approach, using the same vaccine, is now again being tried in the latest fight by the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC).

— PANOS features.

Marital tiff and interest rate rise — what's the link?

By Pierre Tran

LONDON — Question: What have an interest rate rise, a currency depreciation and a central banker's row with his wife got in common?

Answer: Everything or maybe nothing at all.

At least that is how it would be seen by advocates of a fashionable scientific theory called "chaos" that is increasingly being used to analyse financial market behaviour.

"Chaos theory challenges the conventional way of looking at things and that in itself is a very

positive thing," said Richard Tickner, head of capital markets at London investment bank Midland Montagu.

One supposedly unshakable market assumption has been that an increase in interest rates boosts the currency of the country where the rate is raised. Chaos questions this.

"It also just makes life a lot more complicated," said Avinash Persaud, economist at brokers UBS-Phillips and Drew.

"The standard foreign exchange model assumes the currency is affected by interest rates and inflation."

But chaos suggests there may not be a direct link between cause

and effect so that "a one per cent rise in interest rates could have an ambiguous effect on the currency," he said.

With chaos, a currency fall is equally possible.

Early work on chaos was done at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the U.S. atom bomb was developed. The theory has already been applied to issues in the natural world, like weather forecasting.

At the heart of the theory, and what makes it difficult to use to forecast events, is the idea of non-linear relationships between cause and effect.

Non-specific events, small or large, may affect the market but the time lapse before change emerges is unknown. Indeed, it is hard to discern which precise phenomenon triggers the change.

Tickner refers to the often cited example of chaos in observing the natural world — the flap of a butterfly's wing over China may result in a storm over Britain.

He says he has been using mathematical concepts of chaos theory to try to better understand what really moves markets, rather than what we think moves them.

"Our objective is not based in alchemy," Tickner said.

Paul de Grauwe, professor of economics at Belgium's Louvain

University, who has applied the theory to currency trading, questions the conventional wisdom that news drives markets.

He argues that dealers' expectations are formed from a mix of technical analysis and economic considerations.

Chaotic behaviour, despite its name, is not random but follows a pattern. But the pattern is made up of cycles which do not repeat themselves, so appear random. Behaviour follows a pattern but that pattern is hard to forecast.

De Grauwe said: "The name chaos is misleading but it is used because it is attractive and combines the ideas of order and chaos at the same time."

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USSR beats U.S. 3-1

STANFORD, California (AP) — Fedor Cherenkov scored a tie-breaking goal just before halftime and the Soviet Union beat a puncheon United States squad 3-1 Saturday.

The U.S. team, preparing for its first World Cup appearance in 40 years, held its own against the Soviets for most of the first half, and tied the score 1-1 on a penalty kick by John Harkes in the 41st minute. The penalty was called when Oleg Luzny tripped Peter Vermes outside the goal mouth.

But seconds before halftime, a Soviet free kick bounced off the U.S. wall to Cherenkov, whose 20-yard shot beat goalkeeper Tony Meola and went into the upper right corner of the net.

The crowd of 61,000 was the largest in the United States to watch the U.S. team since the 1984 Olympics.

The Soviets, listed by oddsmakers as a 12-1 choice to win the World Cup, controlled the second half and could have scored three or four more goals but for some bad luck and acrobatic goalkeeping by Meola.

A 21-year-old who left the university of Virginia in December, Oleg Protasov scores the Soviets' third goal on a five-yard shot in the 67th minute after the U.S. failed to clear a loose ball from the goal area.

The United States, which mounted a few offensive forays in the first half, had virtually none in the second half. Paul Caligiuri had a final chance for the Americans but sailed an open shot over the crossbar.

Martina has Steffi on her mind

WASHINGTON (AP) — Martina Navratilova sometimes thinks about other things besides tennis, and even politics occupy a good deal of her time.

But on the tennis court, her energy is still focused upon finding a way to beat Graf. It's been a quest that has kept Navratilova motivated well past the age she once figured she would retire.

Navratilova, 33, has won more money than any female player in tennis history and was number one for seven straight years. Her list of accomplishments — which includes 16 Grand Slam singles titles — is virtually endless.

But the emergence of Graf has provided Navratilova with two goals: To regain her number one ranking and to win an unprecedented ninth Wimbledon singles crown.

Graf, who was 4-years-old when Navratilova played in her first Grand Slam event, has beaten Navratilova four straight times.

"To win Wimbledon I have to beat Steffi," Navratilova said. "I don't want to zero in on one player and make it an obsession because you have to beat the other players to get there. But I know she's going to be there and I haven't beaten her in two years, so I've been trying to figure out a way to make myself a better player against her."

Becker beats Lendl for 2nd straight title

STUTTGART (AP) — Boris Becker swept to his second straight tour victory Sunday, defeating top-ranked Ivan Lendl 6-2, 6-2 to capture the \$1-million Stuttgart ATP tennis tournament.

Becker took just 73 minutes to win the \$137,500 first prize and lift his career record against Lendl to 8-7.

Becker, who also won last week's title at the Belgian Indoor championships in Brussels, went into the match having won his last four matches with Lendl, and he got off to a perfect start by breaking Lendl's serve in the opening game.

With Lendl attempting, uncharacteristically, to charge the net on almost every shot, he became an easy target for the West German.

"He was serving and volleying many times — I don't understand why he did it," Becker said. "But it felt very good to have won like that."

Becker, the world's second-ranked player, broke serve for the second time to lead 5-2 and then wrapped up the first set in just 32 minutes.

He was down two break points in the second game of the second set, but two unforced errors by Lendl gave him a chance to fight back. He then broke Lendl's serve again in the third game before unleashing three successive aces to hold his own serve for a 3-1 lead.

A lacklustre Lendl appeared to lack the fire for a fight after that game, allowing Becker to score his easiest win over the Czechoslovak in their 14 career matches.

"Breaking him in the first game of the match was very important. I knew the key was to serve very well and take the ball early and not to rally too much. I played the perfect match," Becker said.

Sheikh Fahd threatens to stop Gulf tournament

KUWAIT (AP) — Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, the leader of the Gulf Cup soccer tournament being played here, threatened Sunday to cancel the games if Kuwait's security was affected.

Sheikh Fahd was talking to local reporters a day after Kuwaiti and Omani players exchanged punches during their match and an anti-riot policeman knocked an Omani player unconscious with a club.

One Kuwaiti paper urged that the policeman be punished.

Sheikh Fahd accused the two Omani players of losing their temper.

"Security and discipline in Kuwait should be given top priority," said Sheikh Fahd, a brother of the emir of Kuwait. "We will not compromise our dignity and security even if the Gulf tournament is cancelled... such behaviour is foreign to international soccer matches."

Defending the Kuwaiti policeman, Sheikh Fahd said, "the policeman did not want violence or to beat the players, but were obliged to do so in light of the irresponsible act of players who tried to attack policeman."

The referee, George Oreilana of Ecuador, dismissed Nasser Ghanim of Kuwait and Omani player Nasser Khamis in the second half after they exchanged punches.

Oman lead the match 1-0 at first but the game ended in a draw.

Kuwaiti security forces circled the Omani team after the match ended to protect the referee, threatened by Omani players and administrators.

"The captain of the Omani team Hilal Hameed tried to escape the circle and hit one of the Kuwaiti special forces personnel with his elbow, thus drawing a reaction from him," Al Rai Al Aam daily recounted.

"Frankly speaking, the act of the policeman reflected uncivilised behaviour, but the Omani players were supposed to behave in a fraternal and cordial manner," said the paper. "Nevertheless, we urged those in charge of the special force to investigate this behaviour on the part of this policeman with a view to better performances after the matches."

The tournament, the 10th to be organised by the Gulf Arab countries, was beset by trouble even before it started. Saudi Arabia caused a furor when it withdrew five days before the start to protest the emblem.

The emblem bruised historic sensitivities because it represented two horses considered legendary in repulsing a Saudi attack on Kuwait in the 1920s.

Sheikh Fahd, chairman of the Gulf Cup's organising committee and the Kuwait Olympic Committee, made no reference to the tiff with Saudi Arabia.

The tournament, which lasts through March 9, started last Wednesday. Teams from Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Iraq are playing.

Oman has already been described as the "black horse" because the rank outsiders have drawn with the UAE, contenders for the 24-nation World Cup, and with hosts Kuwait, favourites to win the Gulf Cup.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good morning to put behind you all the chores and duties that have been holding you off. Avoid temptation to be scrappy with others in the P.M., who aren't doing what you want.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You become more popular by letting good friends know you also really like them. Your attachment will especially appreciate some thoughtful presents now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can add some charm and beauty to increase the rapport at home. You and your attachment can get good results by organising your future together.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are nearing a good offer where your business abilities are concerned. Get off along with attachment and have a great time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your life can now be filled with many persons of different ideas. A very good day to entertain many persons at your dwelling.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try to get a family member to go on a trip with you. Fix up your love nest so you and your attachment are more comfortable.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she is one of those fascinating youngsters who has all kinds of opportunities in early life to be quite a mixed up tot unless you have this child completely in your charge and are very careful to give long accepted principles of truth and humanitarianism to live by.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A financial situation with two friends can be worked out conscientiously now. Unexpected and pleasant surprises are in the aura for you and your attachment.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Prepare to meet some interesting persons of different ideas to yours who can become good friends. Usual romantic outlets bring you the greatest enjoyment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't get drawn into a harsh argument with a couple who come into your home. Decide with your attachment which outside contacts you wish to encourage.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now can join with a good organising friend in some recreational entertainment interest. You see how some new arrangement can increase the harmony at home.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Invite into your home attractive friends and show you appreciate them. Don't try to get out of showing affection for your loved one because of you are tired.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take new friends into your home and you can establish a desirable rapport. Lots of activity with your attachment will bring you both much happiness.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't let all the excitement or activity at home keep you from a clear, lucid viewpoint. You need to take that anticipated jaunt with your loved one.

THE STARS IMPEL: They do not compel. What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YAMANI HUSSEIN
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RICH TOURNAMENT IN ATLANTIC CITY

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♥ 10 6 3
♦ A 10 9
♣ A 9 7

WEST
♠ 2
♥ K 9 8 7 6
♦ K Q J 3 2
♣ Q J 5 4 3

EAST
♠ K Q 8 4
♥ Q 9 8 4
♦ 5 4
♣ 10 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 10
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ 7 6
♣ K 8 6

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 NT
Pass Pass 3 NT
3 NT Pass 4 NT
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Dear Charlie:
In case you haven't heard, the world's richest bridge tournament will be held May 7-10, 1990, at the Showboat Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City. The "Omar Sharif World Individual Championship" will have total prize money of \$200,000, divided between a Championship and an Open event. I expect to be there and, if I play as well as I did in my last tournament, to be

I took care to cash the king and ace of clubs before leading a diamond from dummy. East could do no better than discard a spade, so I ruffed, cashed the ace of spades and exited with the ten. East took the king and returned a spade, and I discarded my club loser as the table's queen won. I now led the board's club and East, poor soul, was lost. East ruffed with the eight, but I underuffed to let him hold the trick. That forced a lead away from the queen of trumps into my combined K-10 tenace.

As ever,
Omar

Jordan wins ACC marathon

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Jordan won the second Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) marathon championship which was held in Baghdad Saturday. This is Jordan's second win of the championship after also winning the first which was held in Amman last year.

Jordan's Ahmad Al Hashari crossed the 21-kilometre race distance in 1:05:53 hour followed by Awd Sarris of Jordan in fractions of a second.

Iraq, which participated with two teams occupied the second and third places after Jordan in team standings, and followed by North Yemen and Egypt in the fourth and fifth places respectively.

The four-member ACC countries were represented by 23 participants of whom only 21 participants finished the race. Jordan was represented in the race by six athletes.

U.S. official calls on sports associations, stars to reject sponsorship by tobacco companies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top health administrator in the United States has called for athletic associations and sports stars to reject sponsorships by tobacco companies.

"This blood money should not be used to foster a misleading impression that smoking is compatible with good health," Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan said at a news conference called to protest sponsorship of women's tennis events by Virginia Slims cigarettes.

He said the link between sports and cigarettes may tempt young people to smoke.

"When the tobacco industry sponsors an event in order to push their deadly product, they are trading on the health, the prestige and the image of the athlete to barter a product that will kill the user," Sullivan said.

Virginia Slims has sponsored women's tennis events for two decades. It is sponsoring 14 events on the women's professional tour this year, including a tournament at George Washington University in Washington this week.

Steve Weiss, a spokesman for Philip Morris Companies Inc., manufacturer of Virginia Slims, rejected the criticism and said, "we intend to be a sponsor of women's tennis for a long time into the future."

He also said the company's sponsorship of women's tennis is not an attempt to entice young people to start smoking, but rather is a marketing strategy aimed at the estimated 60 million adults who already smoke. "Smoking is an adult choice," he said.

Sullivan called on universities and other institutions to refuse to host events sponsored by tobacco companies.

THE GALLERY

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FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ACOR-7:00 p.m. — Monday, February 26
"The American School at Athens: Recent work in Greece, 1987-1989," by Dr. William D.E. Coulson. Dr. Coulson is director of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

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THE Daily Crossword by Henry Rathbender

ACROSS
1 Property
5 Kind of wave
10 Common abbr.
14 Rooney or
15 Convex
16 Sp. unit of
17 Sp. unit of
18 Sp. unit of
19 — out (made do)
20 One not of the clergy
21 Synthetic rubber
22 Hides
23 One not of the clergy
27 Exit
30 Manly hit
31 Actor Gulager
32 Spear
34 His or her item
37 Disorder
39 — Hope (TV soap)
41 Bestow
42 For — sake!
44 Viper
46 Fish paddle
47 GA town
49 Annals
51 Needle
53 Edison's — Park
54 Lotion type
56 Calm
59 — for one's money
61 Line for Bush
62 Alienor
65 Air
66 Fr. friend
67 Makes inquiry
68 Eyelid disorders: var.
69 Bring up

DOWN
1 Epic tale
2 Organic compound
3 Wart-patch
4 Powerhouse
5 Hanks

5 — League
6 TV host Hugh
7 Wings
8 Cnt. campus
10 "And — his day" (Kingley)
11 Culp for Youngman
12 Action place
13 Freight
18 Quasi object
22 Gasp
24 Wound mark
25 Mombasa resident
27 Sgt. Preston's gp.
28 Gen. Robt.
29 Remark for a loser
30 Thrust
33 Gear
35 Sinter
36 Camera part
38 Shipping routes
40 Otis's pet
43 Pond cover
45 Decorative pattern
46 late husband
48 La — Milan
52 — Suite

53 Farinaceous
54 Cnt. home
57 Citrus fruit
58 Semon port
59 Belg. river
62 Actress Ruby
63 Highland: abbr.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

OVER BOARD

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Younis Shalabi, Sa'id Saleh, and Wehid Saif in
The Good, the Monster, and the Pierce
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Omar Al Sharif and Murvat Amin in
AL ARAGOUZ
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

Omar Al Sharif and Murvat Amin in
AL ARAGOUZ
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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BILOXI BLUES

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Aquino vows to prevent a return to dictatorship

MANILA (AP) — President Corazon Aquino, marking the fourth anniversary of her rise to power, vowed Sunday never to allow a return to dictatorship and accused rival Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile of plotting against her.

"I shall never allow us to go back to that [dictatorial] system," Aquino told an estimated 30,000 people at ceremonies marking the February 1986 uprising that toppled the late Ferdinand Marcos.

"No matter how great the threats are, we will thwart their dark plans," said Aquino, who has survived six armed attempts to topple her government, most recently in December.

She called on Filipinos to "be vigilant" of mutinous soldiers who might try to stage another coup attempt.

In the speech, Aquino denounced Enrile for allegedly attempting to rewrite the history of Feb. 22-25, 1986 "people power" uprising.

The rebellion began with a military mutiny, led by then Defence Minister Enrile, which grew when hundreds of thousands of civilians poured into the streets to protect mutineers from Marcos' tanks.

Aquino said in a separate radio interview Sunday that the alliance with Enrile's followers had been a "shotgun marriage" that fell apart because of plots against her.

Last Friday, Enrile "apologised" for having helped install Aquino, Enrile was fired as defence minister in November 1986 after a failed coup by his followers.

"Never have I heard of such a thing as an 'Enrile power' revolution," Aquino told the cheering crowd. "I will talk to Mr. Enrile or his minions if they are listening: Mr. Enrile, have you no shame?"

She said that without popular support, Enrile and his fellow

mutineers would have been crushed by Marcos and that the opposition senator "gets very nervous in a crisis."

"Be a man," she said. "Or better yet, be a woman." She thanked the people for their support, saying, "without you, Enrile could have harmed me and I would not be president now. You did not abandon me."

She noted that four years ago, Enrile had admitted to massive cheating in the Feb. 7, 1986, election in which Marcos was proclaimed the winner by his rubber-stamp parliament. Enrile also admitted faking an ambush against himself in 1972, which Marcos used as a pretext for declaring eight years of martial law.

Aquino called Enrile "the great klibitser" who "wanted to grab the ball as soon as his team was losing and be team captain himself," a reference to his abandoning Marcos in 1986.

"The problem with klibitzers is that they get very nervous in a crisis," she said. "So because of his fear of Marcos, he called on the people's help, and we remember him confessing to all his sins."

Before the speech, Cardinal Jaime L. Sin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila, urged Filipinos to "fight for democracy."

"We are tired of coups," Sin said. "The enemies of peace are lurking around us, people who believe in the rule of the gun... people who are greedy for power."

More than 5,000 troops Sunday were deployed around Manila for security because of continuing threats by military dissidents,

many of whom played key roles in the 1986 mutiny but later broke with Aquino.

Suipens were stationed on the roofs of tall buildings near the area where Aquino spoke.

In a radio interview, Aquino said she wanted to be remembered as the president who reduced poverty.

"When I finish my term, I hope that I will be remembered as the president who was able to improve the quality of life of many of our countrymen," Aquino said.

She said her administration has been able to restore public confidence in government, attract foreign investment, create more jobs, and lessen the number of people living below the government-defined poverty line.

In assessing her four years in office, Aquino said she considered hiring foreign investment to be her greatest accomplishment. She said she had succeeded in increasing foreign investment by 20 per cent, but gave no figures.

Meanwhile a renegade officer who allegedly led the takeover of Manila's domestic airport during December's coup attempt has surrendered, officials said Sunday.

Former Philippine Constabulary Maj. Lyle Tugbang gave himself up to a colleague at the Presidential Security Group Saturday, saying he found it difficult to lead a fugitive's life after he was implicated in the Dec. 1-9 coup attempt, the military said.

Maj. Melgasbal Villegas, presidential security spokesman, said Tugbang had been absent without leave since 1981.

Tugbang is among 1,910 officers and enlisted troops who have either surrendered or been arrested because of their links to the December coup attempt, the sixth and bloodiest bid to topple Aquino.

Former Italian president dies at 93

ROME (AP) — Sandro Pertini, a highly popular former Socialist president of Italy and World War II hero, died Saturday night at age 93, the Italian media reported.

The blunt-talking Socialist, imprisoned by the fascist government during World War II, served in the largely ceremonial post from 1978 to 1985 during a time when Italy defeated urban terrorism and moved to become one of the world's economic powers.

Pertini, elected by parliament to succeed Giovanni Leone, was credited with boosting the morale of Italians during the dark days of terrorism and instilling a sense of pride.

Born in the Italian Riviera town of Savona on Sept. 25, 1896, Pertini studied law and political science before fighting in World War I.

In 1916, he helped found the Socialist Party in Italy with Pietro Nenni, but he never allowed himself to be restricted by party lines.

During the rise of fascism after World War I, Pertini was imprisoned but managed to escape to France. In 1929, during the regime of dictator Benito Mussolini, he was captured in northern Italy and sentenced again.

Pertini spent nearly 10 years in Mussolini's prisons before he escaped to lead a resistance movement in northern Italy. The Nazis sentenced him to death in 1943, but again he escaped and became Socialist Party secretary in 1945.

Pertini was elected to parliament after the war's end and was re-elected continually in the decades that followed — serving two terms as president of the chamber of deputies. For a while he edited the party newspaper, l'Avanti.

His independent line made him acceptable to an array of parties of the left and right, and as two-term president of the Lower House of parliament from 1968 to 1975 he was a noted mediator whenever tempers flared in the chamber.

Pertini had hoped to win the presidency in 1971, but lost to the Christian Democrat Leone. After Leone's fall and the assassination of Aldo Moro — Pertini emerged as a compromise candidate after 15 ballots in parliament.

He immediately brought an open style to the post, refusing to live in the pomp of the Quirinal Palace on the advice of his independent-minded wife, Carla Volturna.

The couple, who had no children, kept their apartment overlooking the Trevi Fountain, and during his frequent walks to work or his favourite cafe, Pertini often stopped to talk to passers-by — a nightmare for his security detail.

In 1979 he employed his little used authority as head of the armed forces to end a strike by air traffic controllers.

When political bickering caused the downfall of Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini's coalition in August, 1982, Pertini angrily expressed the nation's exasperation when he told reporters: "They have ruined my vacation." He then called the partners together and persuaded them to accept an identical government for another try.

She said she had told Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki that she would support his request to have the Germans guarantee the sovereignty of all territory now considered part of Poland. Furthermore, she said other countries, which she did not identify, had asked to be involved in this as well.

Thatcher said she realised Germany had sensitivities and ambitions. "But so has the rest of Europe. You cannot just ignore the history of this century as if it did not happen, and say, 'we are going to unify and everything else will have to be worked out afterwards.' That is not the way," Thatcher was quoted as saying.

The Sunday Times reported that she said there would have to be a transition period for East Germany to enter the European Community because it had been a Nazi or Communist state since the 1930s. In addition, she said its highly subsidised products clashed with EC competition laws.

"All this cannot be ignored. It had to be worked out now and we are working it out," Thatcher was reported as saying.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry's policy-making body on Saturday ruled out NATO membership for a unified Germany, saying that would impermissibly alter the balance of forces in Europe.

The statement from the ministry's collegium was issued as West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met with U.S. President George Bush in the United States.

Mandela urges end to black violence

DURBAN (Agencies) — Nelson Mandela, seeking to end the four years of black faction fighting in Natal province, told an estimated 100,000 blacks Sunday to throw their weapons "into the sea."

Mandela, released Feb. 11 after 27 years in prison, still supports the low-level armed struggle waged by his African National Congress (ANC) movement against apartheid, the white-led government's system of racial segregation.

But the ANC leader said the black-on-black faction fighting in the southeastern province of Natal where at least 2,000 people have been killed in three years was hindering the battle against apartheid.

"Even now as we stand together on the threshold of a new South Africa, Natal is in flames," Mandela told a crowd that filled three adjacent soccer fields.

"My message to those of you involved in this battle of brother against brother is this: Take your guns, your knives and your pangas and throw them into the sea," Mandela said. Pangas are similar to machetes.

In a test of his authority over voteless majority blacks, Mandela offered to make peace with the rival Zulu Inkatha movement and announced he would soon hold peace talks with Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini.

Clashes between members of the country's largest black tribe and ANC allies in the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid coalition in Natal have also made up to 100,000 people homeless.

Making his third speech at a rally since his release, Mandela said: "We extend the hand of peace to Inkatha... strife amongst ourselves wastes our energy and destroys our unity."

His announcement of a peace offer brought scattered jeers from ANC militants but they were the only discordant notes among an overwhelmingly adulatory crowd which shouted ANC slogans at regular intervals in a forest of ANC banners.

Black unity is the main immediate goal of anti-apartheid groups working for maximum leverage before they enter preliminary talks with the white government about reforms.

Pakistan rejects charges of human rights abuse

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistan government has rejected U.S. charges of human rights abuses and called a State Department report an attempt to malign the people of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government took serious exception to the report, calling it "a classical example of disinformation," a government statement said.

The State Department's annual report on human rights, released last week, sharply criticised Pakistan.

It said police commonly tortured people in custody, religious minorities faced discrimination and officially controlled newspapers, television and radio suppressed news about the opposition.

It was the second time in a week that Pakistan has been angered by Washington.

Last week the State Department said safeguards demanded by France as a condition for selling a nuclear power plant to Pakistan were insufficient. Pakistan called the reaction "not well founded."

The human rights report cited

19 people who died in police custody. The government said since Bhutto took office in 1988 as Pakistan's first democratically elected prime minister in 11 years, all political prisoners had been released.

It also rejected allegations of news management, a long-standing complaint among opposition leaders who say they get virtually no coverage on state-controlled television.

The report said an early blossoming of freedom in the official press had been reversed and gave examples of the government halting official advertising in several newspapers.

Rejecting the allegations, the government said the media were completely free and described as totally wrong U.S. claims of religious and job discrimination against Pakistan's small Christian, Hindu and Ahmadi communities.

The Ahmadi say they are an Islamic sect but are rejected by mainstream Sunni and Shiite Muslims as heretics and are banned from practising in Pakistan.

Greek parliament fails to elect new president

ATHENS (R) — Greece's 300-member parliament failed Sunday in its second attempt to elect a new head of state with neither of the two candidates winning the necessary two-thirds majority.

A third and final round of voting for the largely ceremonial post of president will take place next Saturday but if, as expected, no winner emerges the country will face national elections for the third time in less than a year.

On Sunday, former Socialist Parliamentary Speaker Yannis Alevras, nominated by the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), received only 127 votes.

Outgoing president Christos

Sartzetakis, whose five-year term ends in May, received the votes of the 21 Communist deputies. His candidacy was jointly backed by PASOK and the Communists in the first round of voting last week.

But the result was a foregone conclusion as the conservative New Democracy Party, which has 148 seats, decided to abstain from all three rounds of balloting after its proposed candidate, elder statesman Constantine Karamanlis, refused to run.

Four members of parliament were absent from Sunday's vote. In the final round of voting Saturday, candidates will need 180 votes to win.

Yeltsin's book describes distressed USSR

LONDON (AP) — Rebel Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin has called Socialism "an obsolete, 19th-century ideology" and recommended capitalist solutions in a soon-to-be published autobiography, according to excerpts published Sunday.

"What is happening to the Soviet Union borders on catastrophe," he writes in his work. Against the Grain, selections of which appeared in the Sunday Times of London.

The Soviet Union should have acted four years ago in the way that events are shaping in East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, he said.

"Instead, we have been marking time, terrified of taking a step forward and thereby jumping two steps backward," he wrote.

Yeltsin said he believed the Soviet Union would "soon realise that we are practically the only country left on Earth which is trying to enter the 21st century with an obsolete, 19th-century ideology — that we are the last inhabitants of a country defeated by socialism."

He described his efforts as a Communist Party official and government minister fighting corruption and bribery, but says he always felt that despite convictions of crooked people, attempts at reform invariably broke down in the end and everything reverted to the way it had been.

He put forward three principles for thorough reform: — Making the country work by re-establishing private ownership of property to break the power of the state and the alienation of the state from the individual.

— Giving the land to the people who work it so that the nation can be fed.

— Decentralisation to give the 15 Soviet republics economic independence and genuine sovereignty, which would go a long way toward solving the problems of the ethnic minorities.

Yeltsin said he was against an immediate multiparty system because the mere existence of several parties would solve nothing. He favoured a new law to make the Communist Party a part of society and not of the state.

He said he was surprised on his U.S. visit in September by the "ordinary people in America, who radiated optimism, faith in themselves and in their country... When I saw those supermarket shelves crammed with goods of every possible sort, for the first time I felt sick with despair for the Soviet people."

Yeltsin said he used his \$160,000 in lecture fees from the visit to buy 1 million disposable syringes for the Soviet campaign against AIDS disease. But even as he signed the agreement for it, Moscow newspapers were reprinting an Italian newspaper story saying he had been drunk throughout the visit.

Yeltsin said that when he was party first secretary in Sverdlovsk, formerly named Ekaterinburg, in the Ukraine in 1976, he had to destroy the house in which the czarist royal family was executed by Bolshevik revolutionaries in 1918.

Stolen cockatoo talks his way back home

LONDON (R) — A rare cockatoo stolen from an aviary months ago talked his way home by proving he really was a Walli Moluccan cockatoo, called Wally, disappeared after a break-in at Birdworld Aviary south of London. Because there are only 20 pairs of Moluccan cockatoos left in the wild, the bird sparked a nationwide hunt. The cockatoo was given a new name by the thieves who sold him to Sally Cartwright in another part of the country. Cartwright, who knew the bird as Ollie, read about the theft in a magazine and realised he had been saying "Wally" when talking to her. She immediately rang the aviary and gave Wally back. Birdworld is lent her another cockatoo and can give her a baby bird from the next clutch of Moluccans to be hatched later this year.

Debt-ridden city may sell Picasso

LIEGE, Belgium (AP) — The debt-ridden city of Liege is considering the sale of a Picasso masterpiece to keep its museums open, an official said. "Either we sell this Picasso or we have to close a dozen museums for lack of funds," culture alderman Hector Magotte told the daily newspaper Het Belang van Limburg. The city council hopes to make \$5 million from the sale of the 1901 painting of the Soler Family, masterpiece of Picasso's "Blue Period." The industrial city of 200,000 people on the River Meuse had a debt of \$2.14 billion but the national government assumed \$1.29 billion of that, said city spokesman Andre Cuypers.

Crocodile hunting banned in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Crocodile hunting has been banned in Egypt by conservation authorities who have already put cownes and frogs on the list of endangered species. The Middle East News Agency has reported the government of the southern province of Aswan, Qadri Othman, is banning the killing, capture or sale of crocodiles. Violators of the conservation order face a fine of 500 pounds (\$20). Cairo recently banned frog hunting in an attempt to conserve breeding stocks but the appetite of French gourmets for Egyptian frogs lags. A ban on hunting and trapping a species of curlew loved by Egyptian for its melodic call is also in force.

Girl at centre of U.S. custody fight found in N. Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — A seven-year-old girl whose mother wanted to jail rather than reveal the child's whereabouts during a notorious U.S. custody battle has been found living in New Zealand, a U.S. embassy official here said. Embassy spokesman William Barnes said Hilary Antonia Fritzsche, taken into hiding when her mother was jailed in August 1987, was living with her grandparents in the city of Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island. The grandparents were granted temporary custody of Hilary after they appeared before a New Zealand family court Friday, Barnes added. "There'll be a further hearing next week but it's part of the condition of the temporary custody that they were asked to surrender all their travel documents," he said. Hilary's mother, plastic surgeon Elizabeth Morgan, refused to allow the girl to visit her father and was jailed for contempt of court when she refused to disclose where the child was.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	07	14
ATHENS	06	15
BAHRAIN	17	23
BANGKOK	23	29
BARCELONA	13	20
BOMBAY	24	31
CHICAGO	08	15
COPTENHAGEN	06	14
DUBLIN	01	04
GENOVA	01	04
HONG KONG	12	15
ISTANBUL	01	04
LONDON	13	15
LOS ANGELES	07	15
MADRID	07	15
MELBOURNE	14	20
MONTREAL	00	02
MOSCOW	11	14
NEW DELHI	13	20
NEW YORK	12	15
PARIS	06	10
ROME	03	08
SEATTLE	03	08
TOKYO	03	08
VIENNA	03	08

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Colombian rebels free 2 Americans

BOGOTA (R) — Leftist guerrillas have freed two American hostages seized in protest against U.S. President George Bush's visit to Colombia, police said. James Arthur Donnelly, 62, an industrialist, and David Leslie Kent, 40, a teacher, were freed Saturday in mountains about 150 kilometres northwest of the capital and were returned to the Medellin area, Donnelly said. "We were treated fine all the time," he said by telephone. "As an American they didn't treat me bad at all, I was drinking coca-cola all day, and I was reading some books..." The National Liberation Army (ELN) kidnapped Donnelly on Feb. 12. Kent was abducted a day later, and they were held at the same camp, where Kent was allowed to receive treatment for hepatitis, Donnelly said.

Launch of space shuttle scrubbed

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — Launch of the space shuttle Atlantis was scrubbed early Sunday just 31 seconds from liftoff because of an apparent computer malfunction, officials said. The delay was the latest in a series caused by illness and bad weather. The shuttle was originally scheduled to fly last Thursday, but was delayed when U.S. Navy Captain John Creighton, 46, the mission commander, was quarantined with an upper respiratory infection. After three launch delays, the shuttle was fuelled Saturday and prepared for liftoff carrying five military officers and a secret military payload. The passing storm front left brisk winds and chilly temperatures, but air force meteorologists said they were of "minor concern" to launch managers. It was to be the fourth after-dark liftoff and the sixth Department of Defence mission in 34 shuttle flights.

OT: 1 on 1 top